Department of State

SECRET

EMBASSY

Control: 15613
Rec'd: January 27, 1960
9:38 a.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1776, January 27, 7 a.m.

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 1776 REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY [redacted] B1, EB

FOR [redacted] B1, EB

[redacted] had urged constructive conciliatory action from Castro in response to President Eisenhower's statement, beginning with argument that Castro would be lacking in intelligence if he did not seize opportunity offered and improve relations with US before Eisenhower began his trip to Latin America. Castro was responsive, and at [redacted] suggestion telephoned Carlos Franqui of newspaper REVOLUCION on the spot and instructed him to kill any editorials adverse to President's statement in today's issue, with exception that REVOLUCION should point out unity between Cuban Government and people, and to refrain from further attacks on US unless instructed otherwise. Castro made similar call to newspaper LA CALLE in [redacted] presence. B1, EB

Castro had said further he would arrange that President Dorticos' speech this afternoon would "complent" President Eisenhower's, with a few reservations. He expressed wish for Ambassador Bonsal to return at once, and said that if Bonsal did so, he would give him appointment immediately upon request and would name persons to negotiate, within diplomatic channels, on all questions pending with US.

[redacted] told me Castro had specifically authorized him to inform me B1, EB

SECRET

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CRC/MR
REVIEWED BY D ZISCHKE DATE 11/9/81
PORTIONS WITHHELD AS INDICATED

UNCLASSIFIED

inform me of these three decisions of his (re government controlled press, President Dorticos' speech, and readiness to negotiate with Bonsal) for communication Department and Bonsal.

[redacted] believes Castro personally well-intentioned but possibly ill-informed and easily swayed by Raul Castro and other bad influences around him. He believes that in a meeting under more normal circumstances he would not have been able to obtain these assurances from Castro and that bad influences will react strongly ("They will hang me", he said) but feels he has Castro's word. B1,EB

I expressed our deep appreciation to [redacted] and said that if Castro's promise were converted into realities, [redacted] would have made an important contribution to contemporary history. B1,EB

In any response to overtures which may be forthcoming from GOC believe GUS should be wary but responsive. We should avoid appearance of blanket endorsement of GOC, bearing in mind that Castro regime has many facets (e.g., attitude toward democratic processes, disregard of legal procedures, hostility toward private capital) as well as anti-Americanism, of which we cannot approve.

BRADDOCK

TT/8

Note: Mr. Stevenson's office (CMA) notified 10:35 a.m. 1-27-60 CWO-M